



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6806

BY REPRESENTATIVES ZAMORA (M.), SUSANO, ANTONINO-CUSTODIO, RODRIGUEZ, PUENTEVELLA, CODILLA, MERCADO, PUNO, CLIMACO, JALOSJOS, MENDOZA (M.), COSCOLLUELA, SY-ALVARADO, PANCRUDO, PIAMONTE, NOEL, PICHAY, CUA (J.), DAZA, GONZALES (N.) AND DE GUZMAN, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2367

AN ACT GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS TO PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Professional
2 Filipino Athletes Retirement, Health Care and Death Benefits Act of 2009”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall provide retirement,
4 health care and death benefits to professional Filipino athletes who win world
5 championship titles in international professional sports competitions or in other
6 equally prestigious world championship games, in both individual or team
7 events, in recognition of the glory and honor they bestowed to their country.

1 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
2 terms shall be defined as follows:

3 (a) *Professional Filipino Athletes* shall refer to athletes who are
4 Filipino citizens and paid a sum of money and other compensation as a salary
5 or prize money for participating in a game, bout, tournament or contest of
6 professional sport, either as an individual contestant or member of a team
7 under a contract entered into with a professional sports promoter/operator or
8 team owner and licensed by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB).

9 (b) *Professional Sports* shall refer to individual or team sports, games,
10 contests, bouts, tournaments or competitions whereby the participating athlete
11 is paid sums of money and other forms of compensation as regular salary or
12 prize for participation, which are accredited and recognized by the GAB.

13 (c) *International Professional Sports Competitions* shall refer to
14 international competitions that confer world championship titles in both
15 individual or team events which are duly sanctioned and recognized by
16 international sporting organizations and bodies and accredited by the GAB.

17 (d) *Other Equally Prestigious World Championship Games* shall refer
18 to other international professional sports competitions that confer the same
19 rank or stature as world championship titles and recognized as such by the
20 GAB.

21 (e) *International Sporting Organizations* shall refer to international
22 bodies that are recognized, accredited, and have a mutual working relationship,
23 agreement, and/or memorandum of understanding with the GAB.

24 SEC. 4. *Retirement Benefits.* – Professional Filipino athletes as defined
25 under this Act, who win in international professional sports competitions shall,
26 upon reaching the age of fifty-five (55), receive the following retirement
27 benefits:

1 (a) For Individual Events – A lifetime monthly pension of at least
2 Fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) for the individual winner; and

3 (b) For Team Events – A lifetime monthly pension of at least Ten
4 thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) for each team member: *Provided*, That for
5 athletes who win in both individual and team events, the retirement benefits for
6 individual events shall apply.

7 Athletes who are actively employed at the time they reach the age of
8 fifty-five (55) and have availed of the retirement benefits under this Act may
9 continue with such employment: *Provided*, That the retirement benefits under
10 this Act shall be separate and distinct from the mandatory retirement benefits
11 provided by existing laws.

12 *SEC. 5. Health Care Benefits.* – Immediately upon winning in any
13 international professional sports competitions, professional Filipino athletes
14 shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine
15 Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) through a special program
16 sponsored by the GAB, which will provide the required local government
17 premium counterpart to be directly remitted to the PhilHealth. Upon reaching
18 the age of fifty-five (55), the athlete shall be an honorary member of the
19 program, subject to existing rules and regulations of the PhilHealth.

20 In case of hospitalization of the professional Filipino athlete in any
21 hospital or clinic, any amount in excess of the PhilHealth benefit shall be
22 shouldered by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) under its
23 Individual Medical Assistance Program (IMAP): *Provided*, That the PCSO
24 shall shoulder a maximum of Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00)
25 per qualified patient per year: *Provided, further*, That the requirement for
26 qualification and grant of the health care assistance to be extended by the
27 PCSO shall be made consistent with and subject to compliance with PCSO's
28 existing rules and guidelines: *Provided, finally*, That any qualified beneficiary
29 shall have the option to waive the benefits mentioned under this section.

1 SEC. 6. *Death Benefits.* – Upon the death of a professional Filipino
2 athlete, his/her primary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum death
3 benefit of Thirty thousand pesos (Php30,000.00) to cover funeral
4 services/expenses: *Provided,* That, if he/she has no primary beneficiaries,
5 his/her secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to said benefits.

6 For purposes of this Act, primary beneficiaries shall refer to legitimate
7 spouse, legitimate or illegitimate children. Secondary beneficiaries shall refer
8 to the parents, and in their absence, to the brothers or sisters of professional
9 athletes.

10 SEC. 7. *Retroactive Effect.* – The benefits provided under this Act shall
11 retroact to all living professional Filipino athletes who, prior to the enactment
12 of this Act, have won in any international professional sports competition,
13 upon compliance with the requirements that shall be prescribed by the GAB in
14 its implementing rules and regulations: *Provided,* That the winning
15 professional athlete was duly licensed by the GAB at the time of the
16 competition and the sports participated in was recognized and accredited by
17 the GAB.

18 SEC. 8. *Adjustment of Retirement Benefits.* – The adjustment in
19 retirement benefits provided in Section 4 hereof may be authorized, subject to
20 the approval of the President of the Philippines, upon the joint
21 recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Budget and
22 Management (DBM) and the Chairman of the GAB, based on studies,
23 consultations and public hearings with relevant agencies, entities and
24 concerned athletes or coaches. However, no memorandum, order or issuance
25 shall diminish the prescribed retirement benefits.

26 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The Chairman of the GAB shall immediately
27 include in the Board's program the implementation of the benefits under this
28 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
29 Appropriations Act.

1 SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The GAB, in
2 consultation with the Senate, the House of Representatives and other
3 concerned agencies, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and
4 regulations within ninety (90) days upon approval of this Act.

5 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act
6 shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions which are not
7 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

8 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
9 orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the
10 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

11 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
12 its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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